

*To Sarah Disraeli.*

July 22.

The accounts from Maidstone continue as favorable as ever. Several of Hobarts' supporters have come over to me since his secession. I believe I am the only *new* candidate of our side who has not an opposition. So much for the 'maddest of all mad acts/ my uncle G-'s prescience, and B.E.L.'s unrivalled powers of encouragement! The nomination day is fixed for the 25th.<sup>2</sup>

On the 25th, however, Colonel Perronet Thompson, editor of the *Westminster Review*, and a well-known figure among the Radicals of the day, more adventurous than Robarts, allowed himself to be nominated. 'I hope,' said his proposer when he found occasion to mention Disraeli, 'that I pronounce his name aright.'<sup>3</sup> Colonel Perronet Thompson, retorted Disraeli in the opening sentences of his speech, 'I hope, as Mr. Ellis said, that I pronounce his name aright.' Disraeli's ready wit and eloquence had made him a favourite with his side, though, as his popularity grew, the animosity of his opponents increased in like proportion. On this occasion a hostile paper tell us, \* the Blues opened the floodgates of their recriminating eloquence on the degraded Disraeli, who winced beneath the cries of " Old clothes ! " " Shylock I " and various other complimentary epithets for nearly an hour.' Such are the amenities of electioneering.

*To Sarah Disraeli.*

MAIDSTONE,

July 27, 1837. 11 o'clock.

DEAREST,

Lewis ..... 707  
Disraeli ..... 616  
Colonel Thompson..... 412

The constituency nearly exhausted.

In haste, DIZZY.\*

<sup>1</sup> George Basevi, a brother of Disraeli's mother.  
Another Miss Basevi, their sister, had married a Mr Lindo, and 'B.E.L.' was her

son, and therefore Disraeli's cousin.  
<sup>2</sup>*Letters*, p. 115. It is about this time that the  
familiar appellation  
which is here used as signature, and which was  
subsequently to become  
so famous, begins to make its appearance.